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Attorneys for Plaintiff Angela Alvarez

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO DIVISION**

ANGELA ALVAREZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

EQUIFAX INFORMATION
SERVICES, LLC, EXPERIAN
INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC.,
TRANS UNION LLC, AND UPSTART
NETWORK, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:25-cv-00937-WBS-SCR

AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER

The Parties to this action have agreed to the terms of this Protective Order;
accordingly, it is ORDERED:

1 Pursuant to Local Rule 141.1(c)(1) and (2), the Parties anticipate that due to
2 the nature of Plaintiff's claims and Defendants' defenses, discovery will, by
3 definition, include proprietary and confidential business information as concerning
4 Defendants and confidential banking, income, and/or tax records as concerning
5 Plaintiff. The Parties recognize the disclosure of this proprietary and confidential
6 business information poses a substantial risk to Defendants' business and financial
7 interests. The Parties anticipate discovery on the following topics, all of which will
8 implicate proprietary trade secrets with respect to Defendants: (1) details on
9 Defendants' internal policies for credit reporting and other policies relating to
10 Plaintiff's claims and Defendants' defenses; (2) trade secret and business strategy
11 information concerning Defendants' processes like the methodology Defendants
12 use to generate credit scores, analyze credit data, and other processes relating to
13 Plaintiff's claims and Defendants' defenses; and (3) confidential and sensitive
14 information concerning Defendants' product offerings, sales, and/or marketing
15 strategies, and other product information relating to Plaintiff's claims and
16 Defendants' defenses. This information is not otherwise available to the public, and
17 the Parties recognize and acknowledge that this information becoming available to
18 the public would be extremely valuable to Defendants' competitors. The Parties
19 state that the above descriptions are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all
20 classes of information subject to this Stipulated Protective Order. However, this
21 statement is made in compliance with the requirements set forth in Local Rule
22 141.1(c)(1) and (2).

23 Pursuant to Local Rule 141.1(c)(3), the Parties agree the details in the "Terms
24 and Conditions" set forth below should be entered by Court Order, rather than an
25 agreement by and between the Parties because these terms will apply only to the
26 immediate litigation. A protective order entered by the Court will outline
27 procedures for the Parties to follow to expeditiously resolve confidentiality and/or
28

1 privilege disputes – ideally with minimal court involvement. A Court Order will
2 govern potential discovery from third parties who are non-parties in the immediate
3 litigation and may not otherwise be subject to a private agreement between the
4 Parties.

5 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this protective order:

- 7 (a) “attorney” means an attorney who has appeared in this action or is an
8 employee of any name firm and actively assisting an attorney of record
9 in the matter;
- 10 (b) “confidential” means a document reasonably designated as
11 confidential under this protective order;
- 12 (c) “destroy” means to shred or delete information received. Nothing
13 about the term destroy shall prevent a lawyer from complying with
14 professional and ethical rules requiring preservation of a client’s file.
- 15 (d) “document” means information disclosed or produced in discovery,
16 including at a deposition;
- 17 (e) “notice” or “notify” means written notice, including email;
- 18 (f) “party” means a party to this action; and
- 19 (g) “protected document” means a document protected by a privilege or
20 the work- product doctrine.

21 **2. Designating a Document or Deposition as Confidential.**

- 22 (a) In making a confidentiality designation, the designating party
23 represents that it has a good-faith basis for contending that the
24 document is “confidential,” as defined by this order.
- 25 (b) No party shall designate any document or portion of any document as
26 confidential that he/she has not carefully reviewed.
- 27 (c) A party or non-party disclosing or producing a document may
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1 designate it as confidential if the party or non-party reasonably
2 contends that it contains confidential or proprietary information.

3 (d) A party or non-party may designate a document as confidential by
4 conspicuously marking each page with the word “confidential.”
5 Deposition or trial testimony may be designated as confidential:

6 (1) after the deposition, by notifying the parties and those who were
7 present at the deposition within thirty (30) days after the
8 deposition transcript becomes available, unless otherwise
9 agreed. Until thirty (30) days after receipt of the transcribed
10 testimony, such testimony shall be treated by the parties as
11 confidential.

12 (e) If a witness is expected to testify as to confidential or proprietary
13 information, a party or non-party may request that the witness’s
14 deposition be taken in the presence of only those persons entitled to
15 receive confidential documents.

16 **3. Who May Receive a Confidential Document.**

17 (a) “All documents, transcripts, or other materials subject to this Order,
18 and all information derived therefrom (including, but not limited to, all
19 testimony given in a deposition, declaration, or otherwise, that refers,
20 reflects, or otherwise discusses any information designated
21 “confidential” hereunder), shall not be used, directly or indirectly, by
22 any person or party for any business, commercial, or competitive
23 purposes or for any purpose whatsoever other than solely for the
24 preparation and trial of this action in accordance with the provisions
25 of this Order.”

26 (b) No person receiving a confidential document may reveal it, except to:

27 (1) A party, if an individual;
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- (2) the court and its staff;
- (3) an attorney or an attorney's partner, associate, or staff;
- (4) a person shown on the face of the confidential document to have authored or received it;
- (5) a court reporter or videographer retained in connection with this action;
- (6) any juror or alternative juror;
- (7) Experts retained in connection with this action;
- (8) any witness in this action who has executed the "Acknowledgement of Understanding" (Exhibit A);
- (9) Professional jury, trial consultants, mock jurors, and professional vendors, who have executed the "Acknowledgement of Understanding" (Exhibit A); and/or
- (10) any person who is retained to assist a party or attorney with this action, who has executed the "Acknowledgement of Understanding" (Exhibit A).

(c) If a confidential document is revealed to someone not entitled to receive it, the parties must make reasonable efforts to retrieve it.

4. Correcting an Error in Designation. A party or non-party who discloses or produces a confidential document not designated as confidential may, within 7 days after discovering the error, provide notice of the error and produce a copy of the document designated as confidential.

5. Use of a Confidential Document in Court.

(a) Filing. To the extent any motions, briefs, pleadings, deposition transcripts, or other papers to be filed with the Court incorporate documents or information subject to this Order, the party filing such papers shall designate such materials, or portions thereof, as

“Confidential,” and shall file them with the clerk under seal. The parties shall comply with the Court’s local rule governing filing under seal. This protective order, however, does not authorize the filing of any document under seal. A confidential document may be filed only in accordance with the Court’s local rule governing the filing of sealed documents.

6. Changing a Confidential Document’s Designation.

- (a) Document disclosed or produced by a party. A confidential document disclosed or produced by a party remains confidential unless the parties agree to change its designation or the court orders otherwise.
- (b) Document produced by a non-party. A confidential document produced by a non-party remains confidential unless the non-party agrees to change its designation or the court orders otherwise after providing an opportunity for the non-party to be heard.
- (c) Changing a designation by court order. If a party challenges the confidentiality designation of a document, the parties shall meet and confer concerning that issue within 10 days from the date the challenge is made. If the parties cannot agree after they meet and confer, the designating party may file a motion seeking entry of a protective order concerning the specific document, seeking to have the Court designate it as confidential. That motion shall be filed no later than 21 (twenty-one) days after the parties meet and confer as discussed earlier in this paragraph. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.
- (d) If the motion affects a document produced by a non-party, then, with respect to the motion, that non-party is entitled to the same notice and opportunity to be heard as a party. The party or non-party who

designated a document as confidential must show that the designation satisfies Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c).

7. Handling a Confidential Document after Termination of Litigation.

(a) Within 30 days after the termination of this action (including any appeals), each party must:

(1) return or destroy all confidential documents.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph 7(a), each attorney may retain a copy of any confidential document submitted to the court and each attorney may retain records as required by the professional rules of conduct for lawyers.

8. Inadvertent Disclosure or Production to a Party of a Protected Document.

(a) Notice.

(1) A party or non-party who discovers that it has inadvertently disclosed or produced a protected document must promptly notify the receiving party and describe the basis of the claim of privilege or protection. If the party or non-party provides such notice and description, the privilege or protection is not waived.

(2) A party who discovers that it may have received an inadvertently disclosed or produced protected document must promptly notify the disclosing or producing party or non-party.

(b) Handling of Protected Document. A party who is notified or discovers that it may have received a protected document must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B).

9. Security Precautions and Data Breaches.

(a) Each party must make reasonable efforts to protect the confidentiality of any confidential document disclosed or produced to that party.

(b) A party who learns of a breach of confidentiality must promptly notify the disclosing or producing party of the scope and nature of that breach and make reasonable efforts to remedy the breach.

10. Survival of Obligations. The obligations imposed by this protective order survive the termination of this action.

11. Attorneys' Eyes Only. The Parties reserve the right to modify this protective order to address a category of materials with a higher level of protection, such as "Attorneys' Eyes Only."

12. Protections Extended to Third-Party's Confidential Information. The Parties agree to extend the provisions of this Protective Order to Confidential Information produced in this case by third parties, if timely requested by the third party.

13. Applicability to Parties Later Joined. If additional persons or entities become parties to this lawsuit, they must not be given access to any Confidential Information until they execute and file their written agreement to be bound by the provisions of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 10, 2025


SEAN C. RIORDAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

AGREED TO:

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1 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
2 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
3 **SACRAMENTO DIVISION**

4 ANGELA ALVAREZ,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7
8 EQUIFAX INFORMATION
9 SERVICES, LLC, EXPERIAN
10 INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC.,
11 TRANS UNION LLC, AND UPSTART
12 NETWORK, INC.,

13 Defendants.

Case No.: 2:25-cv-00937-WBS-SCR

EXHIBIT A
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
UNDERSTANDING

14 I have read and understand the protective order in the case captioned *Angela*
15 *Alvarez v. Equifax Information Services, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 2:25-cv-00937-WBS-
16 SCR in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. As
17 soon as my work in connection with that action has ended, but not later than 30 days
18 after the termination of that action (including any appeals), I will return or destroy
19 any confidential document that I received, any copy of or excerpt from a confidential
20 document, and any notes or other document that contains information from a
21 confidential document.

22
23 Date: _____

24 Signature

25
26 _____
27 Printed Name
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